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Origin

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Despatch 552

In view recent developments affecting Berlin and Zone, important utilize all appropriate means demonstate solidarity of West (including Germans) in possible emergency. Although Department aware usual German reluctance to submit detailed figures or to initiate action possibly injurious to German industry, we see great advantages in urging FRG give early, unmistakable evidence readiness apply available countermeasures in event Soviet-GDR acts to change status Berlin.

Chancellor's reference to countermeasures in recent press statement encouraging sign which should be clarified. This might provide basis for obtaining commitment for complementary, independent FRG action in support tripartite moves.

Following specific points need exploration including German comment: Discussions with IZT officials of GDR might be useful occasion for FRG to warn of possibility interruptions in steel deliveries. Press statement

regarding

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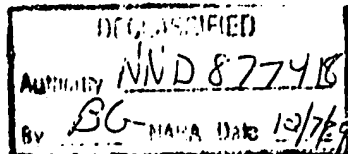
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regarding possible adverse effects on interzonal trade, if convincingly reported, might also carry weight. Although curtailment of steel deliveries might hurt Zone for only limited time until alternate sources could be found, solid evidence of willingness of German industry to assume sacrifices might be most impressive evidence to Communists of Western firmness. Embassy's comments on trade areas, other than steel, or action in other fields where actual or threatened action by Germans might have desirable deterrent effect requested.

British and French ^{apparently} ~~would be~~ willing to join US in informing FRG that we attach greatest importance to fullest support of Federal Republic in event Soviet-GDR threats to Berlin materialize; ^(See Bonn 1037) that Allies cannot be expected bear all risks involved in supporting Berlin and maintaining West German position if Germany reluctant in the eyes of outside world face temporary economic loss or hardship to achieve this end. ^{PR} Embassy views requested as to feasibility high level approach to Germans, preferably next few days on this subject. This has been discussed with Ambassador Bruce who is in sympathy with above analysis.

Dullis
(FK)

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